

SAFETY MESSAGE

Personal Safety is our #1 priority

Decontamination

Preparation for Decontamination

Warnings

Chemicals may contaminate your clothing and PPE with no visible effect.

Do not track hazardous chemicals throughout the workplace. This endangers you and your fellow workers.

Remove disposable protective clothing at or near your work station to eliminate spreading hazardous chemicals.

Take showers and change uniforms and clothes. Do not take contaminated clothes home.

Wash hands before eating and before using toilet facilities. Do not allow chemicals onto the skin. Shower immediately for 15 minutes with soap and water if this occurs.

PPE Decontamination

Decontaminate with care

Many hazardous materials are colorless and odorless. They may be present on chemical protective clothing or your skin without you being able to detect them.

Always treat chemical protective clothing as being contaminated when you go on a break or are done with your shift at the end of the day.

Grossly contaminated clothing such as gloves, protective suits, or boots must be removed before leaving your workstation. Alternatively, remove the contamination from clothing before leaving your workstation area.

Prevent tracking hazardous materials throughout the facility by cleaning on the spot wherever possible. Example: Do not walk through locker rooms with dirty gloves on or the contaminants may transfer to doors and surfaces.

Colored zones

The senior person on the site must establish zones:

- RED ZONE - Contaminated.
- YELLOW ZONE - Decontaminated.
- GREEN ZONE - Safe.

The RED ZONE is “Hot.” Full PPE must be worn.

Upon completion of cleanup, personnel will move to the YELLOW ZONE where the senior person has placed buckets of soapy water. Hats, gloves, suits, goggles, and shoes must be washed free of chemicals. A Safety Professional should be consulted on this.

Remove non-disposable protective clothing

Remove as much contamination as possible using a rag, cloth, or brush. These materials are now hazardous waste and must be placed in the appropriate container at your workstation.

Clean protective clothing with appropriate solvent or soap and water, as directed by your supervisor. These cleaning solvents are now hazardous waste.

Let work clothing air dry in your work station area or elsewhere as directed by your supervisor. Then place it in a laundry system.

Extensively contaminated clothing should be washed first. Pay particular attention to safety hats and shoes.

Do not wear dirty safety equipment. Your safety equipment must be kept clean and in good conditions.

Clean your respirator with soapy water and allow to air dry.

Remove disposable protective clothing

Remove your disposable protective suit and contaminated disposable boots.

Remove contaminated disposable gloves without contacting the outside of the gloves. Place all disposable protective clothing in a designated sealable container at your workstation.

Remove work clothing

Remove any gross contamination at your workstation if possible.

Clean your hard hat, goggles, and respirator case in the employee locker rooms.

Let equipment air dry in lockers.

Place dirty uniforms in the laundry facility service locker.

Shower before changing into street clothes. After decontamination, workers can move to the GREEN ZONE to complete showers.

Do not wear any contaminated clothing home. Protect those you love and live with.

Decontaminate equipment

Process equipment must be decontaminated whenever repair, replacement, or maintenance is necessary. Any equipment that comes in contact with chemicals must be decontaminated prior to any contact by workers or outside contractors.

Process equipment decontamination should include these actions:

- Obtain necessary work permits.
- Shut down, de-pressurize, and de-energize all related process equipment.
- Mechanically and electrically lock out all connected equipment.
- Use only trained personnel or contract workers for decontamination.
- Establish and mark off a decontamination zone to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the decontamination work area. Use yellow barrier tape in addition to posting signs and permits.
- Use high-pressure water or other approved low-pressure solvent wash. Wash all parts thoroughly.
- High pressure rinse with clean water. Take extreme care in using high-

pressure water guns. They can cut off body parts. Only trained workers shall use this equipment.

- Collect all wash and rinse off since it is considered hazardous waste.

Workers doing high pressure washing get sprayed, splashed, etc. They must wear full PPE and they must pass through the decontamination steps describe in this procedure. There are no exceptions to this rule.